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REUTER

BSC/RII, 035

Date of Report: 14 Feb 1946

Date of Info: January 1946

Date Info Recd: 10 Feb 1946

Source: Savoy

AB-7

Eval: B-2

REUTER

Subj: NKVD Targets - REUTER

1. Source, who works as an agent for Captain SKURIN, an NKVD officer in the NKVD section of the Zentralcommandatur on Luisenstrasse, was ordered by SKURIN, at the end of December, 1945, to ask one REUTER to call on him at his law offices in the Soviet Sector of BERLIN.

2. REUTER, a Berlin lawyer, had been a prisoner-of-war in British hands. He was released by them in HAMBURG and decided to apply for his re-admission to the bar in that city. On second thought, he resolved to return to BERLIN, where he established contact with source in order to compare notes with him as to procedure to be followed in order to be re-admitted to the bar.

3. In compliance with SKURIN's request, source sent a letter by messenger to REUTER, asking him to drop by at an appointed time. Source then went to SKURIN, told him the time at which REUTER was likely to call, and gave him a detailed personal description. SKURIN told source that he planned to arrest REUTER after he left the office.

4. Everything went according to plan; REUTER called on the appointed date. After a conversation which lasted about half an hour, REUTER left and was arrested by SKURIN himself while walking along Unter den Linden in the direction of the Brandenburg Tor.

5. Approximately two or three weeks after the arrest, REUTER appeared in source's office. When asked where he had been keeping himself so long, he told source that he had had an unpleasant encounter with French officers and had been detained in French headquarters for about two weeks. REUTER told source that he planned on going to HAMBURG in order to withdraw his application for admission to the bar, that he would try to hitch a ride on a British lorry, that he had no credentials except his British discharge papers, REUTER promised to call on source when he gets back to BERLIN, presumably end of January. As of the date of this report, REUTER had not looked up source.

6. SKURIN had learned about REUTER through source, who had told him that REUTER had been on the staff of SS Obergruppenfuehrer BERGER, the head of the administrative branch of the Waffen-SS, where he directed HIMMLER's combing-out project designed to make available to the SS heretofore untapped manpower resources. Previous to that, REUTER had been G-2 of a division committed in the French campaign of 1940, and later on, staff officer (captain) with Corps Area Command (stellvertreter Generalkommando) in BERLIN in charge of chemical warfare defense measures.

7. Source has considered the possibility that REUTER was released by SKURIN on condition that he work for the NKVD. Against this possibility speaks the circumstance that REUTER has gone to HAMBURG, which, source believes, would be incompatible with the status of an NKVD agent. On the other hand, source is wondering why SKURIN should consent to releasing REUTER, unless some useful purpose be served by so doing. Weighing these considerations against each other, source suggests that we keep an eye on REUTER when he returns to BERLIN.

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8. Source describes REUTER as prepossessing (bestechend), exceptionally intelligent but superficial and lacking in character. Source cites the following rather significant remark REUTER made in his presence some time during the War: "I have been cultivating both the SS and the German Resistance movement. If we win the war, I am on the crest of the wave as one of BERGER's proteges. If we lose, I can produce a document stating that I have been doing clandestine work against the Fascists." REUTER actually carries on his person a document, testifying to his record as an avowed anti-Fascist. Source considers it likely that REUTER produced this paper when SKURIN interrogated him, with the result that he was released.

9. REUTER began as a student of medicine, switched over to Law, and hung out his shingle only in 1936.

10. Age; 42 years; height: 1.80 meters; erect, military bearing. Heavy, muscular build. Dark eyes, healthy; rosy-cheeked, full face, black hair parted on the side.

11. REUTER's BERLIN address:

214, Kurfuerstendamm
BERLIN-CHARLOTTENBURG